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Approved For Release 2001/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R008100800008-0

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COUNTRY German (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC AA Gun Emplacements and Soviet Troops at Wittenberg

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SITUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 5 June 1951

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

1. Between 11 and 13 June 1951, four emplaced AA guns were observed on the south bank of the Elbe River, about 600 meters east of the railroad bridge at Wittenberg (N 52/E 37). A fifth emplacement there contained no gun. A telephone line ran from the emplacements to the Brueckenkopf Kaserne. The AA guns, were of 80-mm to 100-mm, and had barrels which were from 3.25 to 4 meters long and mounted pneumatic recuperators. The distance between the barrels and the recuperators were unusually large. The gun crews were observed daily holding aiming practice, mostly at aircraft which took off from, and landed at, the nearby airfield at irregular intervals. After daily practice, two of the AA guns remained in firing position while the barrels of the other two guns were lowered and covered with tarpaulins. Eleven trucks were observed parked in a patch of woods about 500 meters east of the AA gun emplacements. There was in addition to the emplacements an earth shelter. Source learned from local residents that German Volkspolizei personnel were also trained there at other times. *

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2. The Brueckenkopf Kaserne was occupied to capacity by an air force unit. The personnel of the unit were engaged in intensive training, apparently basic infantry training. Source concluded, after seeing numerous groups of 10 to 15 recruits each and a large number of junior lieutenants and lieutenants with blue service color on 13 June, that the unit was an air force training regiment. The fact that groups of recruits arrived at the installation in the morning and departed in the evening indicated that some of the personnel receiving training there were quartered in billets outside the installation. Vehicles parked on the barracks yard included 20 to 25 trucks, 5 tank trucks and 5 tank-truck trailers.

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3. On 12 June, an engineer unit of about 220 men, wearing red-bordered black epaulets practiced at the destroyed railroad stop near the bridge, opposite Brueckenkopf airfield. The construction of a tank ferry, consisting of three pontoons supporting a superstructure of steel, was built by the troops as part of the training program. The construction of the ferry took about two hours.

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Document No.	8
No Change in Status	
Class. Authority	0
Auth.	8878
Date:	8878
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